

OSRP Action Item Status - 2022

			Responsible Parties					
Action			Lead	Supporting	Timing	Priority	Status	Remarks
<b>▼ Goal 1: Preserve and Enhance Grafton's Water Resources</b>								
<b>▼ Objective 1.1: Continue to support regional efforts to improve and maintain the quality of the Blackstone River and its watershed in order to maximize its use</b>								
1.1-A	Continue to support efforts to work with the Blackstone River Watershed Council and other organizations by establishing points of contact, developing working relationships, participating in regional conferences and other activities.	Conservation	Select Board, Planning	Ongoing	L	Ongoing	Conservation staff is in contact with the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative.	
<b>▼ Objective 1.2: Manage, protect and improve public access to water resources vital for the sustainability of the community</b>								
1.2-A	Prioritize land acquisitions to protect drinking water supply and surface water resources.	Conservation	Select Board, Grafton Land Trust	Ongoing	H	Ongoing	This is taken into account whenever land comes up for potential acquisition.	
1.2-B	Review and update water supply protection overlay district at regular intervals.	Planning		Ongoing	M	No Action		
1.2-C	Reconcile town storm water regulations with the Grafton Subdivision Rules and Regulations to ensure consistency and enhance protection of land and water resources.	Planning	Conservation	Short	H	Completed	Subdivision Rules & Regulations updated in 2021 for consistency with stormwater regulations.	
<b>▼ Objective 1.3: Secure additional protection for groundwater resources</b>								
1.3-A	Concentrate educational efforts to address nonconforming uses within well recharge areas.	Conservation	Planning, Building	Ongoing	M	No Action		
1.3-B	Conduct outreach efforts to homeowners and business owners regarding nonpoint source pollution reduction practices.	Conservation	DPW	Ongoing	M	Ongoing	Conservation staff continues public outreach under the Town's MS4 requirements regarding stormwater.	
1.3-C	Encourage monitoring and repair of individual septic systems by property owners through education actions.	Health	Conservation	Ongoing*	M	Ongoing	Continue to follow up on all septic system repair requests	
1.3-D	Inspect sewer system and identify contingency plans for spills and leaks.	Sewer	DPW	Ongoing	M	No Action		
<b>▼ Objective 1.4: Protect and restore significant wetland areas</b>								
1.4-A	Review and update the regulations of the Grafton Wetland Protection Bylaw at regular intervals.	Conservation		Ongoing	M	Ongoing	Commission is awaiting next round of revisions from DEP for the WPA & will then revise the Bylaw to match.	
<b>▼ Objective 1.5: Take measures to improve the quality of Grafton's surface waters</b>								
1.5-A	Ensure there is a water quality plan in place for all of town water bodies that is actively maintained and implemented.	Conservation	Select Board	Short	H	No Action		
<b>▼ Goal 2: Protect and Conserve Grafton's Land Resources</b>								
<b>▼ Objective 2.1: Permanently protect those Town owned open space resources necessary for provision of recreation opportunities and/or preservation of natural/visual/cultural/historic resources</b>								
2.1-A	Amend Grafton Subdivision Rules and Regulations so that they require the retention of open space for wildlife corridors on all parcels located between or adjacent to open space.	Planning		Short	H	No Action		
2.1-B	Provide information to landowners regarding available mechanisms to permanently protect open space parcels.	Conservation	Assessors, Planning, Select Board	Medium	M	No Action		
2.1-C	Proactively monitor and audit existing conservation lands to prevent encroachment and ensure conservation restrictions are having their intended effect.	Conservation	Grafton Land Trust	Ongoing	H	Ongoing	Conservation staff continues to undertake this work.	
2.1-D	Develop enforcement protocol for encroachment.	Conservation	Select Board, Police	Medium	M	No Action		
<b>▼ Objective 2.2: Protect ecologically sensitive lands</b>								

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2.2-A	Prioritize land acquisitions to protect ecologically sensitive lands and establish Open Space Corridors.		Conservation	Grafton Land Trust	Ongoing	H	Ongoing	This is taken into account whenever land comes up for potential acquisition.
2.2-B	Secure conservation easements for the town owned open space properties where protection is appropriate.		Conservation		Long	M	Ongoing	Work continues on this in conjunction with the Grafton Land Trust.
<b>▼ Objective 2.3: Protect Grafton's farms</b>								
2.3-A	Work closely with the agricultural commission to explore and develop mechanisms for the protection and maintenance of working farms in Grafton.		Ag Commission	Conservation, Assessors, Select Board, Grafton Land Trust	Long	L	No Action	
2.3-B	Develop programs to support the vital role Grafton's farmers play in the local economy.		Ag Commission	Select Board, Economic Development, Planning	Medium	M	No Action	
<b>▼ Objective 2.4: Protect land resources vital for the community</b>								
2.4-A	Strengthen low impact development {LID} requirement language in town bylaws.		Planning	Conservation	Medium	H	In Progress	MS4 compliance work, in progress, includes identification of opportunities for strengthening LID in bylaw and regulations.
2.4-B	Implement recommendations of the BRVHC's Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment. BRVHC's Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment recommendations can be found at mmend.1:1df. mmend.1:1df.		Planning	Conservation	Medium	M	No Action	
2.4-C	Maintain partnerships with key open space protection allies such as OCR, Trust for Public Lands, the Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc., Grafton Land Trust and Sudbury Valley Trustees.		Planning	Conservation, Select Board	Ongoing	L	No Action	
<b>▼ Goal 3: Preserve Grafton's Town Character</b>								
<b>▼ Objective 3.1: Encourage a holistic approach to protecting and preserving Grafton's historic, cultural, scenic landscape resources and other "special places"</b>								
3.1-A	Work with Town officials to update the Town of Grafton master plan.		Planning	Select Board	Medium	H	In Progress	Master Plan update initiated in 2022
3.1-B	Revise and/or update Open Space and Recreation Plan prior to expiration.		Recreation	Planning, Conservation, Select Board	Long (Expires 2	M	No Action	
3.1-C	Update and maintain Town inventory of scenic lands and special places.		Historical Commission	Planning	Medium	L	No Action	
3.1-D	Coordinate with the Historic Commission and other relevant organizations to help build awareness of the historical significance of Grafton's historical and cultural places.		Historical Commission	Planning, Conservation, Select Board	Short	L	No Action	
<b>▼ Objective 3.2: Encourage the use of both Grafton's, the BHC Inc.'s and Historic Commission's design guidelines</b>								
3.2-A	Ensure Grafton's design guidelines reflect most up- to-date recommendations of the BVHC, Historic Commission and other local/regional organizations.		Planning		Medium	M	No Action	
<b>▼ Objective 3.3: Encourage the continuation of Grafton's historic patterns of development where they are discernible</b>								
3.3-A	Explore Zoning Bylaw Amendments and other land use policies and programs that encourage the preservation of the character of Grafton's historic districts.		Planning	Historical Commission	Medium	M	No Action	
<b>▼ Goal 4: Enhance Grafton's Existing Recreation and Conservation Resources</b>								
<b>▼ Objective 4.1: Improve the maintenance of Grafton's active and passive recreation areas and facilities</b>								

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4.1-A	Create Trails Subcommittee via Conservation Commission.		Open Space & Recreation Committee		Short	H	In Progress	Trails Committee proposal under review
4.1-B	Develop a 5-year Capital Improvements plan for all recreation facilities under the Recreation Commission's jurisdiction.		Recreation		Ongoing	H	No Action	
4.1-C	Develop a multi-year funding plan to finance better management of conservation and recreation lands.		Recreation	Conservation, Select Board	Medium	M	No Action	
<b>▼ Objective 4.2: Provide citizens and visitors with information regarding Grafton's recreation/conservation/ cultural/ historic resources</b>								
4.2-A	Improve signage and other wayfinding, identifying the location/access points for all conservation lands that are open to the public.		Conservation	Trails Committee	Short	H	Partially Compl	All Conservation Commission properties have identification signage. Staff is working on the installation of trail head kiosks in conjunction with DPW & the production of trail maps.
4.2-B	Prepare paper and digital resources (including social media) detailing the town's recreation facilities, public open spaces, trail systems, and other resources to publicize Grafton's special places to new residents and visitors.		Recreation	Conservation, Select Board	Short	H	In Progress	A brochure has been drafted and we anticipate recreation facilities to be added to the town's GIS mapping system by spring of 2023.
4.2-C	Develop a plan to ensure coordination between land trust and other agencies/organizations to make data on trails publicly available on the same platforms and in the same formats.		Recreation	Conservation	Short	H	In Progress	Conversations have begun with GLT and CC to coordinate using the town GIS mapping system as the home base for all data and steps to update going forward
<b>▼ Objective 4.3: Improve access for all age and user groups within the population</b>								
4.3-A	Increase available parking space and improve condition of parking at conservation properties.		Conservation	Select Board, DPW	Medium	M	Ongoing	Conservation staff continues to coordinate with DPW to improve parking areas, typically utilizing asphalt millings to grade areas.
4.3-B	Inventory and map all open space trails identifying their current condition, maintenance needed.		Trails Committee	Conservation, Grafton Land Trust	Medium	M	No Action	Trails Committee not yet formed
4.3-C	Increase recreation opportunities for a variety of user groups and special populations including teenagers and handicapped persons.		Recreation	Conservation	Medium	M	Partially Compl	This will always be ongoing. We will continue to expand offerings which this year have included teen and adaptive programs.
4.3-D	Develop plan to ensure all coordinated trails data is made available to emergency services personnel.		Trails Committee	Conservation, Select Board, Police, Fire, Grafton Land Trust	Medium	M	No Action	Trails Committee not yet formed
<b>▼ Objective 4.4: Support Blackstone Bikeway</b>								
4.4-A	Continue to support the Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor, Inc. and DCR's goals for the Blackstone River and Canal by facilitating the development of park lands and recreational opportunities in their vicinity.		Recreation	Planning, Conservation	Long	L	No Action	
<b>▼ Objective 4.5: Plan for year-round, active and passive recreational use of public space</b>								
4.5-A	Develop management plans and strategic goals for Grafton's conservation lands and active recreational facilities.		Recreation	Conservation	Long	M	No Action	
<b>▼ Objective 4.6: Improve fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities</b>								
4.6-A	Coordinate with DCR with stocking at Cronin and Miscoe Brooks.		Recreation	Select Board, Conservation	Ongoing	L	No Action	
4.6-B	Develop plan to make all publicly available data on hunting, trapping and fishing opportunities on Grafton's conservation lands available through the Town's website.		Recreation	Conservation	Short	M	In Progress	Once recreation facilities have been added to town GIS system, trails and hunting/trapping will be added.
<b>▼ Goal 5: Expand Grafton's Recreation and Conservation Resources</b>								
<b>▼ Objective 5.1: Identify and target new priority land acquisitions that will connect to existing town recreation and conservation resources.</b>								

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Action			Lead	Supporting	Timing	Priority	Status	Remarks
5.1-A	Develop priority list of parcels for immediate and future acquisition of land to expand and connect existing resources, based on risk, proximity to existing resources and other factors.		Open Space & Recreation Committee	Conservation, Planning, Select Board, Grafton Land Trust	Ongoing	H	No Action	
5.1-B	Develop an outreach program when planning the town-wide trails to secure cooperation of affected landowners.		Trails Committee	Conservation	Long	L	No Action	Trails Committee not yet formed
5.1-C	Annually Evaluate existing tax title properties and where appropriate, seek to place under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.		Open Space & Recreation Committee	Planning, Select Board, Conservation, Assessors	Ongoing	M	No Action	
<b>▼ Objective 5.2: Expand facilities and opportunities into underserved areas to ensure equitable access for all residents</b>								
5.2-A	Identify gaps in trail network that might be filled with new land acquisitions.		Trails Committee	Conservation, Grafton Land Trust	Medium	M	No Action	Trails Committee not yet formed
5.2-B	Develop and promote programs for all age groups and user groups within the population.		Recreation	Conservation	Ongoing	M	Ongoing	This will always be ongoing. We will continue to expand offerings which this year have included teen and adaptive programs.
5.2-C	Develop a map or other tool that identifies and prioritizes areas underserved by recreation facilities and other gaps.		Recreation	Disability Commission	Medium	M	Completed	Underserved areas have been identified and a map included in the OSRP
5.2-D	Create a Grafton Trail Loop and Layout preferred location and begin securing trail easements with affected property owners.		Trails Committee	Conservation, Recreation	Long	L	No Action	Trails Committee not yet formed
<b>▼ Objective 5.3: Work with boards, organizations and other entities in the Town of Grafton to coordinate conservation efforts</b>								
5.3-A	Evaluate Transfer of Development Rights for possible adoption.		Planning	Ag Commission, Conservation	Long	L	No Action	
5.3-B	Work with Grafton's working farmers and agricultural land owners to encourage the continued preservation of the Town's remaining agricultural resources.		Ag Commission	Conservation, Economic Development, Planning	Long	L	No Action	
5.3-C	Amend flexible development rules in Grafton Subdivision Rules and Regulations to require developers to clearly and permanently mark open spaces in subdivisions through the installation of signage or other permanent method.		Planning	Conservation	Short	H	No Action	
<b>▼ Objective 5.4: Establish an Open Space and Recreation Site Committee to review Town-owned land and prioritize parcels that could be used for conservation and recreation purposes</b>								
5.4-A	Work to establish a committee to review Town-owned land for updated uses related to open space and recreation needs. Committee would specifically focus on lands emerging out of Chapter Lands programs.		Open Space & Recreation Committee	Conservation, Recreation, Planning, Select Board, Assessors	Short	M	No Action	
<b>▼ Goal 6: Connect Grafton's Recreation and Conservation Resources</b>								
<b>▼ Objective 6.1: Improve and expand the system of Town-wide trails to provide a variety of recreational opportunities, such as hiking, jogging, skiing, biking, and horseback riding</b>								
6.1-A	Explore options for use of Grafton-Upton Railroad ROW from Snow Road intersection in the North to the Upton border in the South for a multi-use trail. The section South of the Town Common will be a key component of a walking path from the Common to Silver Lake. Explore other options for town-wide trails as well.		Recreation	Conservation, Select Board	Long	L	No Action	
<b>▼ Objective 6.2: Improve public access to and connectivity between Grafton's active and passive recreation areas, facilities, conservation lands and points of interest</b>								
6.2-A	Restore and maintain the waterway identification signs at road crossings.		Conservation	DPW	Ongoing	L	Ongoing	Signage went up this year, thanks to DPW and we will continue to monitor its presence and notify DPW of any repairs or replacements needed.

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6.2-B	Develop and maintain up-to-date inventory of sidewalks, including current condition, to promote timely repair and improvement of sidewalk network.		DPW	Select Board	Ongoing	H	No Action	
6.2-C	Develop Road Safety education program		Police	School Department, Fire, Planning, DPW, Recreation	Ongoing	H	Ongoing	Traffic enforcement in target areas to include speed monitoring using active patrols and pole mounted radar measurement as well as parking enforcement to ensure pedestrian and motorist safety. Motorist and pedestrian safety tips provided on social media and through Chief's Column.
6.2-D	Prioritize land acquisitions to purchase parcels that increase connectivity.		Trails Committee	Conservation, Select Board, Planning, Grafton Land Trust	Ongoing	H	No Action	Trails Committee not yet formed
6.2-E	Explore opportunities for development of a Town Trolley or other circulator to connect popular cultural and open space destinations.		Economic Development	Select Board, Recreation, Historical Commission	Long	L	No Action	There were discussions in relation to 8 Pine Street, other housing, and the new MBTA housing rule. We believe that the time to move this forward will be when the housing units come on line.
<b>▼ Objective 6.3: Work with neighboring communities to create inter-municipal connections</b>								
6.3-A	Cooperate with the development of the Worcester to Providence bikeway.		Planning	Select Board	Long	L	No Action	
6.3-B	Work with relevant town and regional organizations to develop a map of existing trails and proposed routes and destinations.		Trails Committee	Conservation, Planning	Long	L	No Action	Trails Committee not yet formed
6.3-C	Work with neighboring communities to develop trail, bikeway and other connections between communities.		Planning	Conservation	Long	L	No Action	
<b>▼ Objective 6.4: Secure Green Belt along waterbodies in Grafton</b>								
6.4-A	Develop Grafton Trail Loop, Green Belt Master Plan laying out possible easement routes, identifying publicly and privately-owned parcels and developing a strategy for securing easements, funding sources and other logistics		Conservation	Planning, Select Board, Recreation	Long	L	No Action	
6.4-B	Secure land along Silver Lake shoreline, Quinsigamond River, Blackstone River and Fisherville Mill Pond toward the development of a comprehensive Green Belt.		Conservation	Planning, Recreation, Select Board, Grafton Land Trust	Ongoing	H	Ongoing	Two additional Robinson lots were acquired at October Town Meeting adjacent to Silver Lake.
6.4-C	Pursue development of trails along parcels along lands already owned by the Town, Land Trust or other public agency.		Conservation	Grafton Land Trust, Trails Committee	Medium	M	Ongoing	Conservation staff have identified areas where trail re-routes are necessary and will be implementing them in the future.
6.4-D	Pursue policies to encourage private developers grant easements as part of any new developments along Green Belt route.		Conservation	Planning, Select Board	Ongoing	M	No Action	